Texas Sea Grant Program
2012 NSGO Review

Gene W. Kim

Sea Grant

TXSG Management

Management Staff (Name, position, FTE)

- Pamela Plotkin, Director, 1.0 FTE
- Logan Respess, Associate Director, Extension Program Leader, 1.0 FTE
- Jim Hiney, Communications Coordinator, 1.0 FTE
- Terry Poehl, Assistant Director, Fiscal Officer, 1.0 FTE
- Vacant, Research Coordinator

- Size of program - Large

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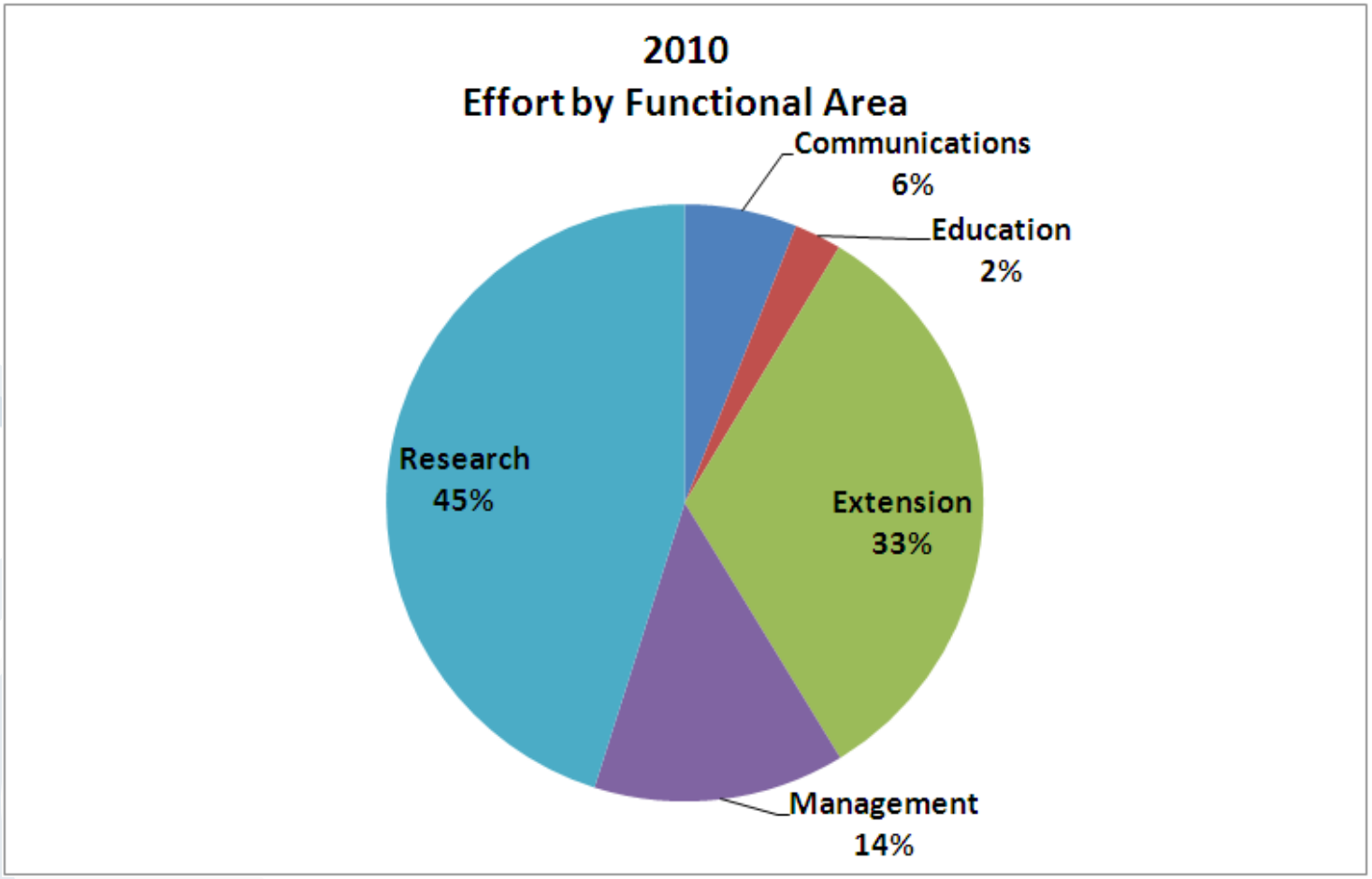
TXSG Management

Functional Area	# of individuals	# of FTEs supported by SG	# of FTEs supported by match/leverage
Administration	3.00	1.00	2.00
Communications	5.00	0.90	4.10
Extension	12.00	4.94	6.66
Education	1.00	1.00	0.00
Research	18.00	1.29	1.85

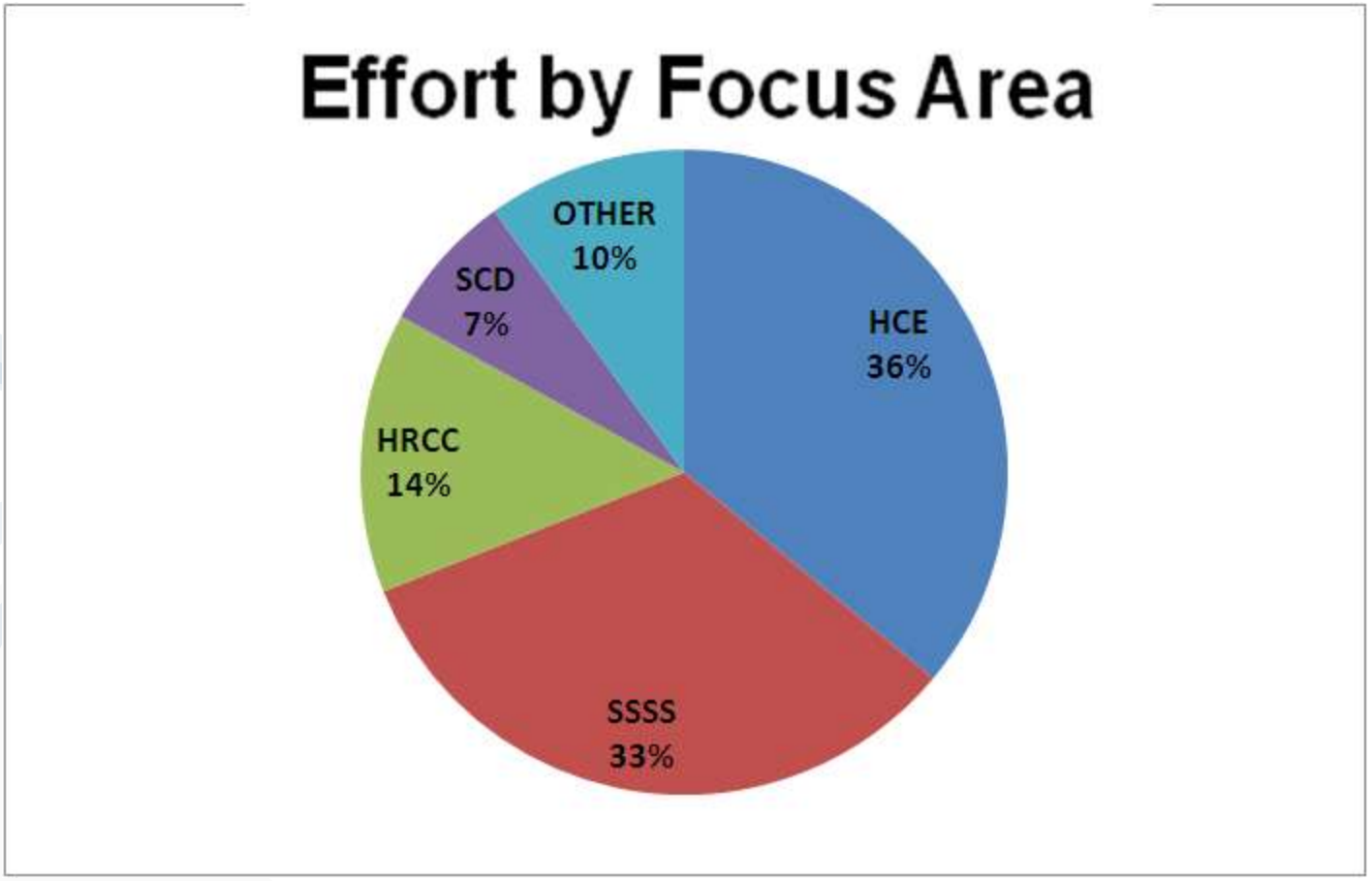
TXSG 2010 Core Budget (Fed + Match) towards each Functional Area



Note: Education activities are also integrated into Extension.

TXSG 2010 Budget towards each Focus Area

(Fed + Match + Pass-Through + Managed Leveraged Funds)



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Significant TXSG Changes (since January 2011)

- New Director, Dr. Pamela Plotkin (Started September 2011).
- First-ever Coastal Community Development Agent hired 2011, partnership with Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Program celebrated 40-year anniversary.
- New Reporting Specialist hired (to start February 2012).
- Marine Education Specialist resigned (September 2011).
- Advisory Committee expanded – broader representation and diversity.
- Program office moving back to Texas A&M campus (spring 2012).
- Texas Shores magazine resurrected (January 2012).

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TXSG Program RFP Process

- Advisory committee meets in advance of RFP release and recommends priorities for the next proposal cycle, taking into account national priorities.
- RFP release in December.
- Informational workshops held in state to answer questions, and meet and encourage new PIs (College Station, Galveston, and Port Aransas).
- Pre-proposals undergo in-state peer review (late winter).
- Pre-proposal review panel meets to recommend full proposals (early spring).

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TXSG Program RFP Process, continued

- PIs submit full proposals (late spring).
  - All proposals must have identified Extension or Communications personnel.
  - All full proposals sent out for out-of-state peer review (late spring).
  - Full proposal panel, primarily out-of-state and university personnel, recommends proposals to be funded. Extension Leader is ex officio on review panel.

TXSG RFP Process for 2012-2014 Projects – Research Metrics

Proposal Status	Number	# of Institutions Represented	# from Home Institution
Pre-proposals submitted	60	15	26
Full proposals submitted	24	9	12
Proposals Funded	8	5	4

TXSG Contribution to National Performance Measures & Metrics

Focus Area	Metric/Performance Measure	Actual
SSSS	Percentage of shrimp fishermen who adopt and implement responsible harvesting techniques and practices.	90% (Target = 100%)
HCE	Number of acres of degraded ecosystems restored as a result of Sea Grant activities.	3,431[1] (Target = 6,000)
HCE	Number of volunteer hours	57,997 (valued at $1.2M)
HRCC	Number of metropolitan areas that have improved flooding/storm surge predictive capabilities.	7 (Target = 7)

[1] Burn bans in effect throughout Texas limited ability to conduct controlled burns for habitat restoration

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TXSG Contribution to National Performance Measures & Metrics

Focus Area	Metric/Performance Measure	Actual
SSSS HRCC HCE SCD	Number of Sea Grant meetings and workshops, and total number of attendees	602 meetings, 17,983 attendees
HCE	Cumulative Clean Marina participants	85 certified, 35 pledged
Other	Total K-12 students reached through educators	14,801

TXSG Impact - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
Focus Area: SSSS

- Relevance: Wild shrimp stocks are healthy, but Gulf and South Atlantic shrimp fishermen have suffered due to trade issues.
- Response: TXSG's Mike Haby led a successful collaborative effort among the Gulf and South Atlantic State Sea Grant offices and seafood organizations in submitting a regional petition to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service for shrimp producers to receive benefits pursuant to the TAA for Farmers program.
  - In order to receive up to $12K each in cash benefits, applicants must attend an orientation, 12 hours of intensive training, and develop and submit a business plan.
  - Four in-person training modules and an online training component was launched.

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TXSG Impact - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
Focus Area: SSSS

- Results: To date, 859 Texas shrimp industry applicants have attended their orientation trainings during workshops held in their first language (English, Spanish, Vietnamese).

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TXSG Impact – Deepwater Horizon Response Focus Area: SSSS

- Relevance: On April 22, 2010 the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig experienced a deadly explosion, sank, and released millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Fishing closures from Louisiana to Florida caused direct economic impacts on Texas fishermen, as did seafood safety concerns.
- Response: TXSG conducted seafood safety training as part of the Harvest Open Waters program to prevent oil-tainted seafood from entering the food supply. During the sensory training, shrimp were "spiked" with crude oil and trainees were instructed how to discern obvious oil taint in treated product.

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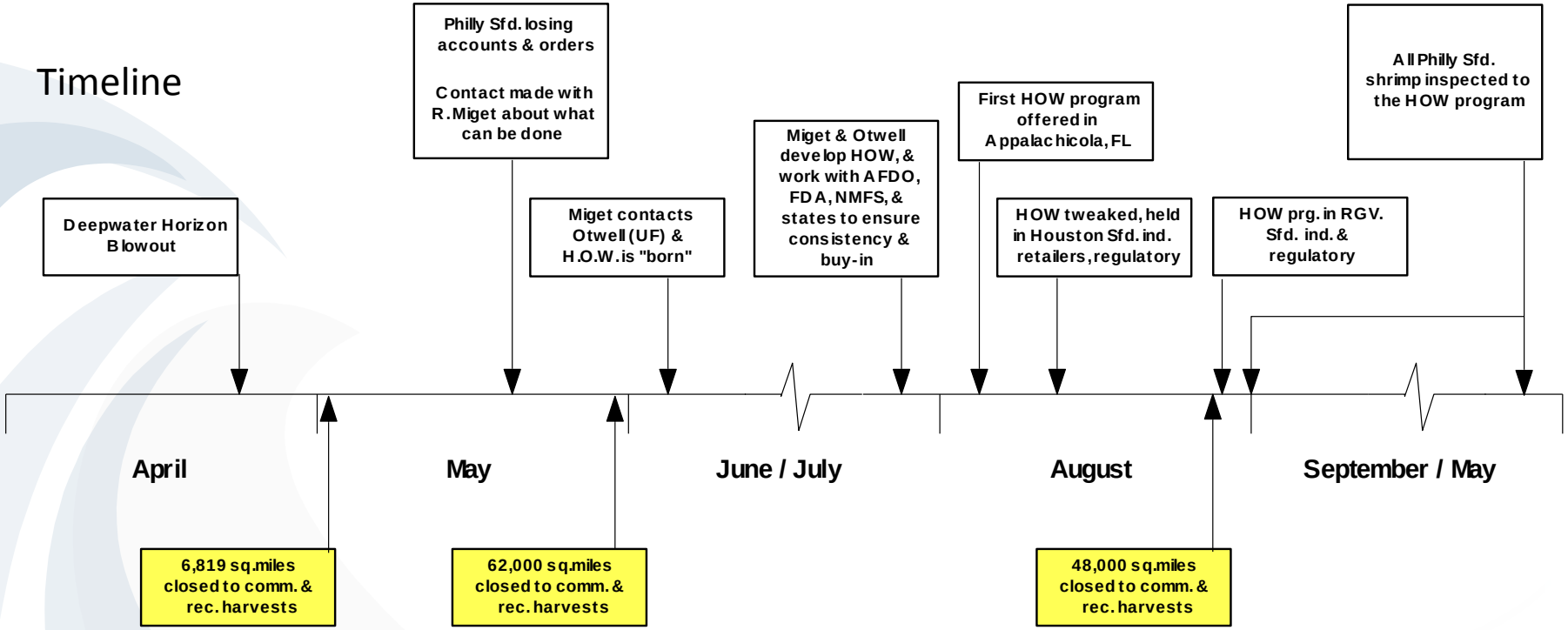
TXSG Impact – Deepwater Horizon Response
Focus Area: SSSS

- Results: Forty-one participants representing seafood buyers, federal and state regulatory agencies, and all Texas seafood processors received training, which they incorporated into their HACCP plans to ensure compliance with new post-spill regulations.



TXSG Impact – Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program (MRRP)
Focus Area: HCE

- RELEVANCE: Monofilament line is single-strand, high-density nylon fishing line used on fishing reels. Used line can be harmful to boat motors and marine wildlife.

- RESPONSE: The Texas MRRP is coordinated by Texas Sea Grant. It is a statewide, volunteer-led effort to reduce monofilament in the environment through educating the public about the problems caused by monofilament line left in the environment and recycling through a network of recycling bins.

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TXSG Impact – Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program (MRRP)
Focus Area: HCE

- RESULTS: In 2010, MRRP volunteers installed 45 new permanent bins, bringing the total to more than 250 bins statewide. Most importantly, 114.4 pounds of monofilament line were collected. Estimating line strength at 12 pound test (common for coastal Texas) and this 114.4 pounds corresponds to 155 miles of line that was kept out of the environment. Since records began in 2004, 604 total pounds (819 miles) have been collected.

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TXSG Impact – Floating Classroom Program (FCP)
Focus Area: HCE

- RELEVANCE: As urbanization increases along the Texas Gulf coast, water quality degradation due to runoff pollution becomes an ever-increasing issue. Traditional environmental outreach programs, such as fairs and festivals, seek to educate the public about runoff pollution but don't typically reach ethnic and lower-income citizens.

- RESPONSE: A grant secured from GOMA funded special Saturday educational cruises aboard the FCP teaching vessel, whereby students returned with their parents/caregivers and in turn taught them what they learned on previous school cruises about runoff pollution, its effects on water quality, and what they could do to reduce it. FCP staff served as moderators for discussion and operated sampling gear.

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TXSG Impact – Floating Classroom Program (FCP)
Focus Area: HCE

- RESULTS: A total of 697 individuals (67% Hispanic, 6% African American, 1% Asian American and 26% White) participated in the two-hour educational cruises. Post-cruise surveys indicated increased parental knowledge of runoff pollution, water quality and ecosystems, while the student's understanding was reinforced. 61% of respondents indicated that they intended to make changes based on information they gained during the trip.

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TXSG 2010 Research Accomplishment: Quantifying Texas hypoxia
Focus Area: HCE

- New observations finds evidence of distinct hypoxic regions forming along the Texas shelf. Quantifying the timing and location of Texas hypoxia increases knowledge about the extent of the Dead Zone and supports efforts to reduce it.
- RELEVANCE: National efforts to reduce hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico.
- RESPONSE: Compiling historical oceanographic datasets; two cruises in June and August 2010; building a database that incorporates historical and current datasets, including real-time data from mooring; and quantifying historical timing and location of Texas hypoxia.

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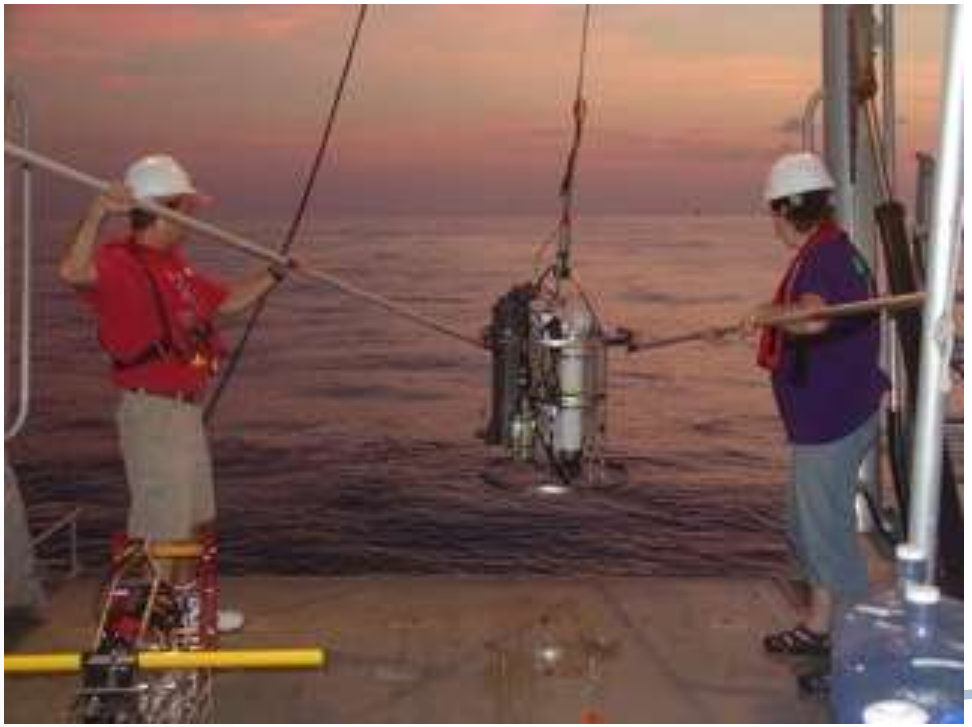
TXSG 2010 Research Accomplishment: Quantifying Texas hypoxia
Focus Area: HCE

- RESULTS: Data collected has provided a high spatial and temporal resolution dataset that will improve the understanding of how the formation of the Louisiana Dead Zone impacts the northern Texas shelf.



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TXSG 2010 Research Accomplishment: Predicting HABs
Focus Area: HCE

- Deployment of an Imaging Flow Cytobot (IFCB) in Port Aransas demonstrated the usefulness of plankton cell abundance as a predictor of harmful algal blooms (HABs).
- RELEVANCE: Harmful algal blooms are a growing concern, but the mechanism of bloom initiation is not well understood.
- RESPONSE: Patterns in microzooplankton abundance are being studied to determine if changes in grazing pressure can be linked with HAB occurrences. Plankton cell abundance is being monitored with the IFCB, deployed at the UT Marine Science Institute's Pier Laboratory as part of the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR).

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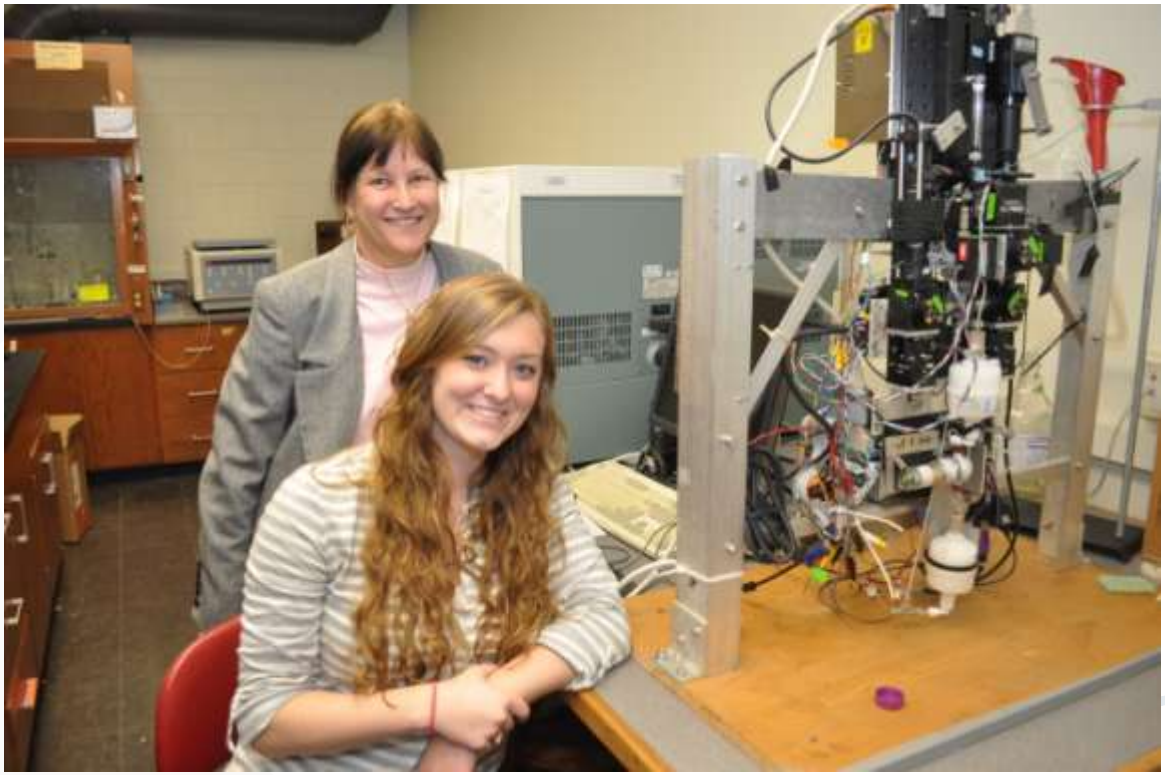
Research Accomplishment: Predicting HABs
Focus Area: HCE

- RESULTS: Data from the IFCB during the period funded by Texas Sea Grant led to successful prediction of a Dinophysis bloom in March/April 2010.



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Sources (unless otherwise noted)

- Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation Resources (PIER) https://pier.seagrant.noaa.gov.
- Personal Communication with Program.
- Formal Response Submitted by Program to the Site Review Team Final Report.